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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3278
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 2212
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2331
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0863
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1608
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1966
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2387
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4818
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000678

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR S. HILL
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/02/2018
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: TSVANGIRAI ON COLLAPSED TALKS

REF: A) HARARE 676 B) HARARE 674

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

11. (C) MDC president Morgan Tsvangirai told the Ambassador August 12 that negotiations between ZANU-PF and the MDC had stalled over the issue of power sharing. Specifically, Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe was unwilling to cede executive power to Tsvangirai as prime minister and allow Tsvangirai to be head of government. Tsvangirai said he would take his case to the SADC Summit on August 16. He would urge Botswanan president Ian Khama, who had threatened to boycott the Summit to attend as well. (He did not think Mugabe would attend.) Meanwhile, he and his lieutenants had been contacting SADC summit leaders. His vice-president, Thokozani Khupe had spoken to Botswanan president Ian Khama and was now in Tanzania. He expected talks to resume after the SADC Summit with, he hoped, additional pressure on Mugabe and ZANU-PF.

12. (C) Tsvangirai said there had been ZANU-PF movement in the talks. The ruling party was now willing to give Tsvangirai control of a number of ministries--but not the security ministries. He averred that it was important that he be in control of the latter; otherwise, Zimbabwe could find itself back in the same fix in the future with the securocrats running the country. Mugabe had so far refused to budge on this issue.

13. (C) The Ambassador asked Tsvangirai about news reports that Arthur Mutambara had agreed to an alliance with ZANU-PF. Tsvangirai said that South African president and mediator Thabo Mbeki had presented a proposal the South Africans had drafted for power sharing. The document was not a complete agreement but focused only on the respective roles of Mugabe and Tsvangirai. Both Mugabe and Mutambara signed; Tsvangirai refused because it allocated him insufficient executive power. He thought Mutambara should have been principled and not signed; nevertheless, he did not indicate that an alliance had been formed between Mugabe and Mutambara. Separately, Mutambara denied to us that there was a deal between him and Mugabe.

14. (C) On a related issue, Tsvangirai said he had talked to the Chinese ambassador the previous evening and thought the ambassador was supportive of the MDC position. According to Tsvagnira, the ambassador said he had talked to Mugabe and urged him to compromise and allow Tsvangirai a leadership role.

15. (C) COMMENT: Tsvangirai told us that Mugabe, Mbeki, and Mutambara had ganged up on him during the negotiation process and exerted tremendous pressure. He held his ground as he consistently has told us he would, and he pledged to continue to do so. SADC knows the issues and what is at stake, and Tsvangirai will have an opportunity to convince them to exert additional pressure on Mugabe. At this point, we should assist him by continuing our outreach to SADC capitals. Our support could be critical in this effort.

16. (C) COMMENT CONTINUED: Mutambara is more of an irritant to Tsvangirai than a real factor in the negotiations. His recent actions (Ref B) indicate an effort to curry favor with Mugabe, and his posture has made negotiations more difficult for Tsvangirai. But Mutambara is more figurehead than leader on top of a weak and relatively insubstantial party. His MDC faction has 10 MPs. At least 6, and probably 8, will follow Tsvangirai's lead. END COMMENT.

MCCEE